

Chief deputy sheriff slot filled

By AARON ALDRIDGE
Staff Writer

The Sullivan County Sheriff's Department has a new man in the number two position.

Capt. Denis O'Sullivan officially received a promotion to Chief Deputy Sheriff last Monday making him the most important person in the department behind Sheriff Mike Prozzo.

"He's learned to be a big picture guy," Prozzo said.

The position of chief deputy sheriff has been vacant since Lt. Chip Ball retired from the department 18 months ago. Prozzo said there were two candidates for the position, but

when one of them left for another department, the decision to promote O'Sullivan was easily made.

O'Sullivan has almost 20 years of experience in law enforcement and worked at the Newport Police Department for 18 years. He has been with the Sheriff's Department for about 18 months.

"We have six full-time and eight part-time employees," Prozzo said.

On Dec. 28, Prozzo hired former Newport Police Officer Justin Merrill, making the Sheriff's Department fully staffed. Prozzo said he has heard nothing but good things about Merrill.

"I'm sure he'll make a fine addition to the department," Prozzo said.